

those which are run by NRIs out of the above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The information is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Low-Level of Trade on Nathu-La Pass

1520. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a month after trading formally restarted across the Nathu-La Pass linking Sikkim and Tibet, Chinese authorities have expressed disappointment at the low levels of trade taking place;
- (b) whether it is a fact that China's official news agency has blamed the Indian side, citing a series of restrictions that New Delhi has imposed on the number of items that are permitted to be traded; and
- (c) if so, what are the major concerns of Government in the trade between India and China through Nathu-La Pass?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Media Report carried in the Chinese official media has expressed concern over low level of trade taking place through Nathu-La. The number items for import/export are decided through mutual consent and not unilaterally. As per the mutual agreement 15 items can be imported from China and 29 items can be exported to China. The matter of trading time, commodities scope and the daily trade volume for individual traders for border trade through Nathu-La was also raised by the Chinese side officially in the third session of the Joint Working Group on Trade held in Beijing on October 30-31, 2006. The trade at this Border Point has started after a long gap and it may take time to pick up. Restrictions on trading time and movement of people have been put taking into account the concern of national security in that area.